

## Blue Moons and Brimstones

By CHARLES F. COWAN \*

It is asking for trouble to write up old notes and second-hand information without checking the original literature. I was guilty of exactly that (Vol. 90, pp. 302-304) when suggesting that either Linnaeus or Johansson, or both, were guilty of deception in 1763 when naming "*Papilio ecclipsis*", the decorated *Gonepteryx rhamni*. Having at last obtained a copy of Johansson's thesis (1763, *Amoen. Akad.* 6: 384-415) I hasten to remedy matters. The mystery goes far deeper.

This peculiar-looking Brimstone dates from before Linnaeus was born! Johansson's description of *P. ecclipsis* (p. 406, no. 67) includes the key phrases "*Pet. gaz. t. 6, t. 10, f. 6, bona*" followed by "*Habitat in America septentrionali, De Geer*". In his introduction (p. 390) he relates how he was invited to see De Geer's insects, mostly from Pennsylvania (*sic*, the original spelling), and closes by naming eight which, without having actually seen them himself, he would not have believed in; the last, and only Lepidopteron among them, being *P. ecclipsis*.

Now those two key phrases in the description mean that the syntypes of *P. ecclipsis* included De Geer's specimen(s) from N. America and the specimen figured by Petiver in his *Gazophylacium* 6, pl. 10, fig. 6, which was notably a good likeness. Petiver must have engraved that figure in or before 1707. He called it "The Sulphur with black spots and blue moons".

So how did Petiver get his pre-1707 specimen(s), and what happened to them? And how did De Geer obtain his, which were in his collection at Stockholm in 1763? And how is it that two examples, which may not even be syntypes, are now in the Linnaean collection? Linnaeus died just eight weeks before De Geer.

Being unable now to visit museums and libraries, I must leave those queries to others. Perhaps our Editor might solve them?

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PTEROSTICHUS ANGUSTATUS (DFT.) (COL.: CARABIDAE) IN ANGUS: FIRST SCOTTISH RECORD. — I took a specimen of this species from under a stone in Templeton Woods, Angus (No. (37) 350340), a mixed pine and birch woodland, on the outskirts of the city of Dundee, on 10th June 1979. Lindroth (Col.: Carabidae, Vol.: IV, part 2, *Handbks. Id. British Insects*, 1974) states that this species is apparently a newcomer to Britain since 1900. Previously the most northern record appears to be Belsay in Northumberland (Frank, J. H. (1964), *Ent. mon. mag.*, 100: 56). Thus this species appears still to be spreading north. I wish to thank Dr. M. L. Luff of the Department of Agriculture, University of Newcastle on Tyne, for checking the identity of the specimen. — A. GARSIDE, Dundee Museum and Art Galleries, Albert Square, Dundee.